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(c) whether any representations have been made to the Government to reduce the water-cess and if so, what action has been taken by the Government?

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" (a) There is no such taluk as Vadalur taluk in South Arcot district. Presumably, the hon. Member refers to Cuddalore taluk.

Three artesian wells have so far been sunk in Cuddalore taluk. Of these, only two proved to be successful and are now working. The actual cost of one of these two wells (well sunk in Kolakundy village) is Rs. 7,455 while that of the other (well sunk in Nainakuppam village) is Rs. 6,981.

The probable cost of each artesian well has been estimated by the Government at Rs. 8,000. The cost however varies with the depth up to which the bore is required to be taken in each case to tap artesian springs adequate for irrigation purposes.

" (b) The water cess fixed for irrigation from the artesian wells in the locality is Rs. 22-8-0 per acre per annum and not Rs. 30. This rate has been fixed on the basis of the water cess charged in the case of dufassal crops raised in the Cauvery-Mettur Project area; it takes into account the plentiful supply of water from the artesian wells which will be available all the year round and which will enable the ryots to grow at least one short-term foodcrop in addition to paddy.

" (c) No representation to reduce the water cess has been received from anybody in Cuddalore taluk."

SRI M. LAKSHMANASWAMI :—" ఆ బావుల క్రింద ఒక్కొక్క బావి క్రింద ఎంతమాగాణి సాగుఅవుతుందో తెలియచేస్తారా ? "

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" I may tell the hon. Member that I have not got the figures as regards the number of acres which each well irrigates, but I have got figures to show that all the 20 wells which were sanctioned in 1948 would irrigate and that all the wells sanctioned in 1950 also would irrigate. As regards the 20 wells sanctioned in 1948, they are expected to irrigate an area of 1,570 acres, and in July 1950 about 101 artesian wells were sanctioned and they are expected to irrigate an area of 5,200 acres."

SRI G. LATCHANNA :—" Is it a fact that the number of existing artesian wells exceeds the requisite number and that, therefore, the quantity of water is gradually diminishing? "

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" Notice, Sir."

Nellore Thermal Station.

* 236 Q.—SRI K. SHUNMUGHAM (on behalf of Sri D. Dasarathararamiah) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the thermal station at Nellore is self-sufficient financially;

(*b*) how many electrical connections were given for agricultural purposes and how many applications are still pending; and

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the truck-line at Vijayavada Thermal Station was removed and if so, where it was sent?

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" (*a*) The answer is in the negative. The Thermal Station is expected to become remunerative in the tenth year of operation (1959–60).

" (*b*) Up to 1st October 1952, supply was given to seven consumers for agricultural purposes and 840 applications were pending.

" (*c*) The answer is in the negative."

SRI C. RAJAM RAMASAMI :—" May I know the working cost of the Nellore Thermal Station and the sale price per unit? "

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" The cost price per unit at the Nellore Thermal Station is six annas and a war cost surcharge of 40 per cent is levied on the above rate."

SRI T. ANANTHA PAI :—" What is the reason for allowing lower rates to be charged at the Nellore Thermal Station while other Thermal Stations like the one at Udipi are allowed to charge a higher rate? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member may give notice of a separate question."

Zamindari forests taken over by the Forest department.

* 237 Q.—SRI P. RAMA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Order No. 23560/51-52, dated 27th November 1951, issued by the Chief Conservator of Forests in respect of the policy to be adopted in the case of zamindari forests taken over by the Forest department is still in force;

(*b*) if it is in force, whether the order has been communicated to subordinates; and

(*c*) if the order is not in force, what policy is being followed now?

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" (*a*) & (*b*) Yes, Sir.

" (*c*) Does not arise."

SRI P. RAMA RAO :—" ఈ forest officers గ్రామాలలో orders మాకు అందలేదని చెప్పి జమీందారీ areas లో ఉన్నటువంటి అన్ని forest ను కూడ reserve forest గా చేర్చేసి పుల్లరి వసూలు చేయనటువంటి ప్రాంతాలలో కూడ పుల్లరి వసూలు చేస్తున్నారనే విషయము ప్రభుత్వమునకు తెలుసునా? "